

**SILVERWOOD (PWSNO 1280091)
SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT REPORT**

January 15, 2002



**State of Idaho
Department of Environmental Quality**

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Executive Summary

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative sensitivity to contaminants regulated by the act. This risk assessment is based on a land use inventory in the well recharge zone, sensitivity factors associated with how the well was constructed, and aquifer characteristics.

This report, *Source Water Assessment for Silverwood*, describes the public drinking water wells; the well recharge zone and potential contaminant sites located inside the recharge zone boundaries. This assessment, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, should be used as a planning tool to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this public water system. **The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

Silverwood drinking water is supplied by two wells pumping from the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. The water system serves a theme park and RV park about a mile south of Athol, Idaho. A ground water susceptibility analysis conducted by DEQ November 13, 2001 ranked the wells moderately susceptible to all classes of regulated contaminants.

This assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a “pristine” area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require education and surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

Because 186 public water systems in Idaho draw water from the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, they should consider forming a regional group to represent their interests before state, county and municipal governing bodies when regulatory tools like zoning overlays, or enactment of building codes are the most appropriate ground water protection measures. Partnerships with state and local agencies and industry groups should also be established. For instance, source water protection activities for agriculture should be coordinated with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, local Soil Conservation District, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service

For source water protection in its own jurisdiction, Silverwood needs to make the modifications to the wells outlined in the May 16, 1996 Sanitary Survey of the system. Extending the casings to 12 inches above finished ground surface and sealing the casings properly are particularly important for preventing surface contaminants from reaching the ground water.

Due to the time involved with the movement of ground water, source water protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term. For assistance in developing protection strategies, please contact your regional Department of Environmental Quality office.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FOR SILVERWOOD

Section 1. Introduction - Basis for Assessment

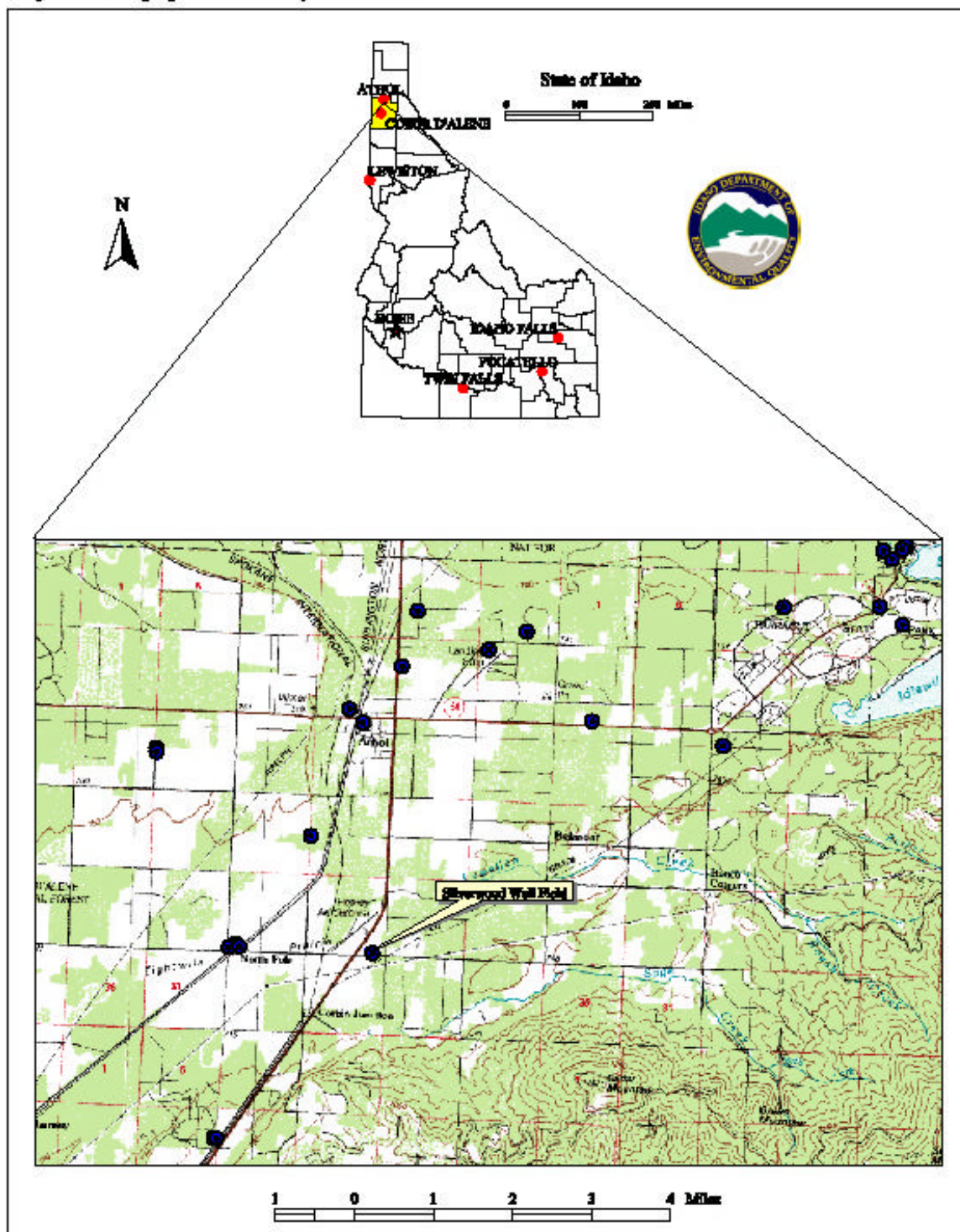
The following sections contain information necessary for understanding how and why this assessment was conducted. **It is important to review this information to understand what the ranking of this source means.** A map showing the delineated source water assessment area and an inventory of significant potential sources of contamination identified within that area are included. The ground water susceptibility analysis worksheets used to develop this assessment are attached.

Level of Accuracy and Purpose of the Assessment

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess every public drinking water source in Idaho for its relative susceptibility to contaminants regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. These assessments are based on a land use inventory inside the delineated recharge zones, sensitivity factors associated with how the well is constructed, and aquifer characteristics. The state must complete more than 2900 assessments by May of 2003. Because resources and the time available to accomplish assessments are limited, an in-depth, site-specific investigation for every public water system is not possible.

The results of the source water assessment should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system. The ultimate goal of this assessment is to provide data to local communities for developing a protection strategy for their drinking water supply. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality recognizes that pollution prevention activities generally require less time and money to implement than treating a public water supply system once it has been contaminated. DEQ encourages communities to balance resource protection with economic growth and development. The decision as to the amount and types of information necessary to develop a source water protection program should be determined by the local community based on its own needs and limitations. Wellhead or source water protection is one facet of a comprehensive growth plan, and it can complement ongoing local planning efforts.

Figure 1. Geographic Location of Silverwood



Section 2. Preparing for the Assessment

Defining the Zones of Contribution - Delineation

The delineation process establishes the physical area around a well that will become the focal point of the assessment. The process includes mapping the boundaries of the well recharge area into time of travel (TOT) zones indicating the number of years necessary for a particle of water to reach a well. DEQ used a refined computer model approved by the EPA to determine the time of travel for water pumped from the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. The computer model used data DEQ assimilated from a variety of sources including local well logs.

Silverwood is a non-community non-transient water system with 27 connections serving a theme park and RV park about a mile south of Athol, Idaho (Figure 1). Drinking water for Silverwood customers is supplied by two wells located near the fire station on Bunco Road. The estimated capacity of Well #1 is 230 GPM and of Well #2 is 370 GPM.

The delineation for the Silverwood wells encompasses about 12 acres and curves southeastward from the wells for about half a mile (Figure 2). The delineation is divided into 0-3, 3-6 and 6-10 year time of travel zones.

Identifying Potential Sources of Contamination

The goal of the inventory process is to locate and describe those facilities, land uses, and environmental conditions that are potential sources of ground water contamination. Inventories for Silverwood and all other public water systems in Idaho were conducted in two-phases. The first phase involved identifying and documenting potential contaminant sources within a system's source water assessment area through the use of computer databases and Geographic Information System maps developed by DEQ. A map showing the delineations and a table summarizing the results of the database search were then sent to system operators for review and correction during the second or enhanced phase of the inventory process.

Figure 2, *Silverwood Delineation and Potential Contaminant Inventory* on page 7 of this report shows the locations of the Silverwood wells, the zones of contribution DEQ delineated for the wells, and potential contaminant sites in the vicinity.

Many potential sources of contamination are regulated at the federal level, state level, or both to reduce the risk of release. When a business, facility, or property is identified as a potential contaminant source, this should not be interpreted to mean that this business, facility, or property is in violation of any local, state, or federal environmental law or regulation. What it does mean is that the potential for contamination exists due to the nature of the business, industry, or operation.

Section 3. Susceptibility Analysis

DEQ weighed the following factors to assess a well's susceptibility to contamination:

- physical integrity of the well,
- hydrologic characteristics,
- land use characteristics, and potentially significant contaminant sources
- historic water quality

Susceptibility rankings are specific to a particular potential contaminant or category of contaminants. A high susceptibility rating relative to one potential contaminant does not mean that the water system is at the same risk for all other potential contaminants. The relative ranking that is derived for each well is a qualitative, screening-level step that, in many cases, uses generalized assumptions and best professional judgement. The following summaries describe the rationale for the susceptibility ranking. The Susceptibility Analysis Worksheets, Attachment A, show in detail how each Silverwood well scored.

Well Construction

Well construction directly affects the ability of a well to protect the aquifer from contaminants. Lower scores imply a well that can better protect the ground water. This portion of the susceptibility analysis relies on information from individual well logs and from the most recent Sanitary Survey of the public water system. Well logs for Silverwood are on file with DEQ. The Sanitary Survey conducted May 16, 1996 found the system to be mostly in compliance with *Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems*. However, the casings for both wells needed to be extended a minimum of 12 inches above finished ground level and the surface needs to be sloped to provide protection from surface runoff. Both wells needed watertight and properly vented seals at the top of the casing.

Well #1 was drilled in 1988 to a depth of 400 feet. It has a 6-inch steel casing that is perforated from 320 and 355 feet below the surface. The static water level in the well is at 320 feet. Current Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) regulations require the unperforated portion of the casing to extend at least 5 feet below the static water level. The bentonite clay surface seal is 30 feet deep. The well is completed in a layer of sandstone. The seal terminates in sand and gravel.

Well #2 is 365 feet deep and was drilled in 1990. The 8-inch steel casing extends into a soil stratum described as decomposed granite on the well log. The casing is perforated from 328 to 350 feet below the surface. The well log reports the static water level is at 328 feet. The 20-foot deep surface seal ends in a layer of sand and gravel with some clay.

The map displays the Silverwood Well Field area, including Silverwood Creek, Bunco Creek, and various well fields. The map includes a legend for symbols like 'Wellhead', 'Exchange Point', and 'WATER Use'. It also features a scale bar from 0 to 0.5 miles and a north arrow.

Hydrologic Sensitivity

Hydrologic sensitivity scores reflect natural geologic conditions at the well site and in the recharge zone. Information for this part of the analysis is derived from individual well logs and from the soil drainage classification inside the delineation boundaries. Both of the Silverwood wells scored 5 points out of 6 points possible in the hydrologic sensitivity portion of the susceptibility analysis. Soils in the recharge zone generally are classed as moderately well to well drained. Soils that drain rapidly are deemed less protective of ground water than finer grained, slow draining soils.

As reported on the well logs, soils above the water table at the well sites are predominantly sand and gravel with some boulders. While there is some clay in the soil, it does not form a thick continuous layer to prevent the vertical transport of contaminants. On the other hand, the depth to ground water in the wells is greater than 300 feet, which provides some protection to the aquifer through adsorption and other mechanisms.

Potential Contaminant Sources and Land Use

The 12-acre recharge zone for the Silverwood wells mostly lies under an undeveloped, wooded area east of Highway 95. Bunco Road crosses the 0-3 year time of travel zone, but was not counted as a significant potential contaminant source since it carries low volume local traffic only. A fire station west of the well field lies just outside of the recharge zone.

Figure 2, *Silverwood Delineation and Potential Contaminant Inventory* on page 7 shows the locations of the Silverwood wells, the zones of contribution DEQ delineated for the wells, and approximate locations of potential contaminant sites in the vicinity.

Historic Water Quality

Historically, Silverwood has had few water quality problems. None of the quarterly samples have been positive for total coliform bacteria. Nitrates have not been detected in the water since 1996

The water was tested for synthetic and volatile organic chemicals in 1998. None were detected. The unregulated inorganic chemicals sodium, fluoride and sulfate were detected in concentrations of 2.2 mg/l, 0.20 mg/l and 5.0 mg/l respectively.

Final Susceptibility Ranking

Both of the Silverwood wells ranked moderately susceptible to all classes of regulated contaminants. Natural risk factors associated with local geology added the most points to the final susceptibility scores. Cumulative scores for each well are summarized on Table 1. A complete susceptibility analysis worksheet for each well can be found in Attachment A.

The final scores for the susceptibility analysis were determined using the following formulas:

- 1) VOC/SOC/IOC Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.2)
- 2) Microbial Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.35)

The final ranking categories are as follows:

- 0 - 5 Low Susceptibility
- 6 - 12 Moderate Susceptibility
- > 13 High Susceptibility

Table 1. Summary of Silverwood Susceptibility Evaluation

Susceptibility Scores						
Well	System Construction	Hydrologic Sensitivity	Contaminant Inventory			
			IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbial
Well #1	6	5	0	0	0	0
Well #2	5	5	0	0	0	0
Final Susceptibility Ranking						
Well	IOC		VOC		SOC	
Well #1	Moderate		Moderate		Moderate	
Well #2	Moderate		Moderate		Moderate	

IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

HIGH* - Indicates source automatically scored as high susceptibility due to presence of bacteria or a VOC, SOC or an IOC above the maximum contaminant level in the tested drinking water

Section 4. Options for Source Water Protection

The susceptibility assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what the susceptibility ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a “pristine” area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require education and surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

An effective source water protection program is tailored to the particular local source water protection area. The state and local health districts have instituted enhanced protection of the ground water in the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer because of its high use and uniquely pristine water quality. The protections are generally aquifer wide and are not aimed at zones of contribution to a specific well or water system. *The Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Atlas*, sent to water systems on the prairie when they were invited to perform an enhanced contaminant inventory, describes some of the regional protection measures.

The 186 public water systems in Idaho that draw water from the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer should consider forming a regional group to represent their interests before state, county and municipal governing bodies when regulatory tools like zoning overlays, or enactment of building codes are the most appropriate ground water protection measures. These types of measures could be used to protect the capture zones of a specific system or group of wells that could be put at risk from local land use changes.

Silverwood can ensure the continued high quality of its water supply by protecting its well field as outlined in the May 1996 sanitary survey of the system. The well casings need to be extended a minimum of 12 inches above grade and fitted with vented watertight seals. The area around the wells needs to be sloped to drain surface runoff away from the wellheads. The well house needs to be rodent proof.

Silverwood has had a good water quality history, and is fortunate in having its well recharge zone encompass only 12 acres in an undeveloped area. Because the recharge zone is so small, outright purchase of the land over that part of the aquifer might be a feasible way to ensure that any future land use there will have no impact on ground water quality. Partnerships with neighboring landowners and local agencies like the highway district and fire district should also be established. They may need to be reminded that chemicals used for noxious weed control or dust abatement cannot be used within 50 feet of the well field.

Due to the time involved with the movement of ground water, wellhead protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term.

Assistance

Public water suppliers and users may call the following IDEQ offices with questions about this assessment and to request assistance with developing and implementing a local protection plan. In addition, draft protection plans may be submitted to the IDEQ office for preliminary review and comments.

Coeur d'Alene Regional DEQ Office (208) 769-1422

State IDEQ Office (208) 373-0502

Website: <http://www.deq.state.id.us>

Water suppliers serving fewer than 10,000 persons may contact John Bokor, Idaho Rural Water Association, at (208) 343-7001 for assistance with wellhead protection strategies.

References Cited

Great Lakes-Upper Mississippi River Board of State and Provincial Public Health and Environmental Managers, 1997. "Recommended Standards for Water Works."

Idaho Department of Agriculture, 1998. Unpublished Data.

Idaho Division of Environmental Quality, 1994. Ground Water and Soils Reconnaissance of the Lower Payette Area, Payette County, Idaho. Ground Water Quality Technical Report No. 5. Idaho Division of Environmental Quality. December 1994.

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Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 1997. Design Standards for Public Drinking Water Systems. IDAPA 58.01.08.550.01.

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 2000. City of Fruitland Wellhead Viability Project 319 Grant Final Report July 2000.

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Natural Resource Conservation Service, 1991. Idaho Snake-Payette Rivers Hydrologic Unit Plan of Work. March 1991.

United States Geological Survey, 1986. Quality of Ground Water in the Payette River Basin, Idaho. United States Geological Survey. Water Resources Investigation Report 86-4013.

University of Idaho. 1986. Ground Water Resources in a Portion of Payette County, Idaho. Idaho Water Resources Research Institute. University of Idaho. Moscow, Idaho. April 1986.

Attachment A

Silverwood
Susceptibility Analysis
Worksheets

Ground Water Susceptibility

Public Water System Name : **SILVERWOOD**
 Public Water System Number : **1280091**

Source: **WELL #1**
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1. System Construction		SCORE			
Drill Date	3/26/88				
Driller Log Available	YES				
Sanitary Survey (if yes, indicate date of last survey)	YES 1996				
Well meets IDWR construction standards	NO	1			
Wellhead and surface seal maintained	NO	1			
Casing and annular seal extend to low permeability unit	NO	2			
Highest production 100 feet below static water level	NO	1			
Well protected from surface runoff	NO	1			
Total System Construction Score		6			
2. Hydrologic Sensitivity					
Soils are poorly to moderately drained	NO	2			
Vadose zone composed of gravel, fractured rock or unknown	YES	1			
Depth to first water > 300 feet	YES	0			
Aquitard present with > 50 feet cumulative thickness	NO	2			
Total Hydrologic Score		5			
3. Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1A (Sanitary Setback)		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbial
		Score	Score	Score	Score
Land Use Zone 1A	RANGELAND, WOODLAND,	0	0	0	0
Farm chemical use high	NO	0	0	0	
IOC, VOC, SOC, or Microbial sources in Zone 1A	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Total Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score - Zone 1A		0	0	0	0
Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1B (3 YR. TOT)					
Contaminant sources present (Number of Sources)	NO	0	0	0	0
(Score = # Sources X 2) 8 Points Maximum		0	0	0	0
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or Microbials	NO	0	0	0	
4 Points Maximum		0	0	0	
Zone 1B contains or intercepts a Group 1 Area	NO	0	0	0	0
Land use Zone 1B	Less Than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0	0
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone 1B		0	0	0	0
Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE II (6 YR. TOT)					
Contaminant Sources Present	NO	0	0	0	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or Microbials	NO	0	0	0	
Land Use Zone II	Less than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0	
Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone II		0	0	0	0
Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE III (10 YR. TOT)					
Contaminant Source Present	NO	0	0	0	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or Microbials	NO	0	0	0	
Is there irrigated agricultural lands that occupy > 50% of Zone	NO	0	0	0	
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone III		0	0	0	0
Cumulative Potential Contaminant / Land Use Score		0	0	0	0
4. Final Susceptibility Source Score		11	11	11	11
5. Final Well Ranking		Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Ground Water Susceptibility

Public Water System Name : **SILVERWOOD**

Source: **WELL #2**

Public Water System Number : **1280091**

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1. System Construction		SCORE			
Drill Date	8/1/90				
Driller Log Available	YES				
Sanitary Survey (if yes, indicate date of last survey)	YES 1996				
Well meets IDWR construction standards	NO	1			
Wellhead and surface seal maintained	NO	1			
Casing and annular seal extend to low permeability unit	CASING--YES. SEAL--NO	1			
Highest production 100 feet below static water level	NO	1			
Well protected from surface runoff	NO	1			
Total System Construction Score		5			
2. Hydrologic Sensitivity					
Soils are poorly to moderately drained	NO	2			
Vadose zone composed of gravel, fractured rock or unknown	YES	1			
Depth to first water > 300 feet	YES	0			
Aquitard present with > 50 feet cumulative thickness	NO	2			
Total Hydrologic Score		5			
		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbial
3. Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1A (Sanitary Setback)		Score	Score	Score	Score
Land Use Zone 1A	RANGELAND, WOODLAND,	0	0	0	0
Farm chemical use high	NO	0	0	0	
IOC, VOC, SOC, or Microbial sources in Zone 1A	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Total Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score - Zone 1A		0	0	0	0
Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1B (3 YR. TOT)					
Contaminant sources present (Number of Sources)	NO	0	0	0	0
(Score = # Sources X 2) 8 Points Maximum		0	0	0	0
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or Microbials	NO	0	0	0	
4 Points Maximum		0	0	0	
Zone 1B contains or intercepts a Group 1 Area	NO	0	0	0	0
Land use Zone 1B	Less Than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0	0
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone 1B		0	0	0	0
Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE II (6 YR. TOT)					
Contaminant Sources Present	NO	0	0	0	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or Microbials	NO	0	0	0	
Land Use Zone II	Less than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0	
Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone II		0	0	0	0
Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE III (10 YR. TOT)					
Contaminant Source Present	NO	0	0	0	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or Microbials	NO	0	0	0	
Is there irrigated agricultural lands that occupy > 50% of Zone	NO	0	0	0	
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone III		0	0	0	0
Cumulative Potential Contaminant / Land Use Score		0	0	0	0
4. Final Susceptibility Source Score		10	10	10	10
5. Final Well Ranking		Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT INVENTORY

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

AST (Aboveground Storage Tanks) – Sites with aboveground storage tanks.

Business Mailing List – This list contains potential contaminant sites identified through a yellow pages database search of standard industry codes (SIC).

CERCLIS – This includes sites considered for listing under the **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**. CERCLA, more commonly known as Superfund is designed to clean up hazardous waste sites that are on the national priority list (NPL).

Cyanide Site – DEQ permitted and known historical sites/facilities using cyanide.

Dairy – Sites included in the primary contaminant source inventory represent those facilities regulated by Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and may range from a few head to several thousand head of milking cows.

Deep Injection Well – Injection wells regulated under the Idaho Department of Water Resources generally for the disposal of stormwater runoff or agricultural field drainage.

Enhanced Inventory – Enhanced inventory locations are potential contaminant source sites added by the water system. These can include new sites not captured during the primary contaminant inventory, or corrected locations for sites not properly located during the primary contaminant inventory. Enhanced inventory sites can also include miscellaneous sites added by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) during the primary contaminant inventory.

Floodplain – This is a coverage of the 100year floodplains.

Group 1 Sites – These are sites that show elevated levels of contaminants and are not within the priority one areas.

Inorganic Priority Area – Priority one areas where greater than 25% of the wells/springs show constituents higher than primary standards or other health standards.

Landfill – Areas of open and closed municipal and non-municipal landfills.

LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with leaking underground storage tanks as regulated under RCRA.

Mines and Quarries – Mines and quarries permitted through the Idaho Department of Lands.)

Nitrate Priority Area – Area where greater than 25% of wells/springs show nitrate values above 5mg/l.

NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) – Sites with NPDES permits. The Clean Water Act requires that any discharge of a pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source must be authorized by an NPDES permit.

Organic Priority Areas – These are any areas where greater than 25 % of wells/springs show levels greater than 1% of the primary standard or other health standards.

Recharge Point – This includes active, proposed, and possible recharge sites on the Snake River Plain.

RICRIS – Site regulated under **Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA)**. RCRA is commonly associated with the cradle to grave management approach for generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

SARA Tier II (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Tier II Facilities) – These sites store certain types and amounts of hazardous materials and must be identified under the Community Right to Know Act.

Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) – The toxic release inventory list was developed as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (Community Right to Know) Act passed in 1986. The Community Right to Know Act requires the reporting of any release of a chemical found on the TRI list.

UST (Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with underground storage tanks regulated as regulated under RCRA.

Wastewater Land Applications Sites – These are areas where the land application of municipal or industrial wastewater is permitted by DEQ.

Wellheads – These are drinking water well locations regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are not treated as potential contaminant sources.

NOTE: Many of the potential contaminant sources were located using a geocoding program where mailing addresses are used to locate a facility. Field verification of potential contaminant sources is an important element of an enhanced inventory.

Where possible, a list of potential contaminant sites unable to be located with geocoding will be provided to water systems to determine if the potential contaminant sources are located within the source water assessment area.